MIT's Oldest and Largest Newspaper

thetech.com

Volume 137, Number 1



WEATHER, p. 3 THU: 29°F | 9°F

FRI: 22°F | 11°F

Partly cloudy SAT: 32°F | 27°F Snow showers

Thursday, February 9, 2017

Students banned by exec order permitted to return to campus

Seattle circuit court case will determine future of immigration ban, may be decided within the week

By Katherine Nazemi

SENIOR EDITOR

The two undergraduates who had been barred from returning to MIT by President Donald J. Trump's executive order on immigration were welcomed back to campus Feb. 3.

Niki Rahmati '18 and Fadi Atieh '20 were able to return after a Massachusetts court temporarily stayed the order Jan. 29, making it legal for them to fly into Logan Airport.

"We can all be glad that our affected undergraduates have overcome their immediate immigration difficulties and are back with us" President L. Rafael Reif wrote in an email Friday. "If they or others continue to face challenges in the future, MIT will be by their side."

'There is no way I can thank MIT enough for this," Rahmati wrote in a Facebook post Feb. 5. "Chancellor Barnhart was in touch with me every single day, updating me with any new information and guiding me on the next steps I could take. ... There were multiple attorneys and deans waiting for Fadi and me at the airport and gave us the warmest welcome ever.

In the post, she also reflected on her home country. "I might be far from home, and I might not have the chance to travel back home for a while, but I will always have Iran in my heart."

Aside from the two undergraduates, three other MIT affiliates — two researchers and a visiting student - had been barred by the executive order. All three had arrived back to campus by Sunday, Feb. 5. With their return, no current MIT affiliates are known to be stuck abroad, according

At least eight researchers from the seven countries affected by the ban — Syria, Iran, Iraq, Yemen, Liboffers to join MIT, but will be unable to acquire visas as long as the order remains in place.

In total, there are over 100 students and researchers from the seven affected countries on campus, according to MIT News.

On Friday, a federal judge in Seattle, Wash. issued an injunction that temporarily blocked enforcement of the immigration order nationwide.

The Justice Department responded Monday, filing an appeal against the judge's order. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals held a hearing Tuesday, where three judges heard oral arguments presented by two lawyers representing the Justice Department and the state of Washington.

A ruling - which could reinstate Trump's ban or uphold the Seattle judge's order — is expected later this week.



xFair took place Feb. 6 and featured over 100 companies.

Barnhart announces potential Vassar St. location for new dorm

Working group met and collaborated with architectural firm on pre-design process

By Patrick Wahl and Vivian Zhong

Chancellor Cynthia Barnhart PhD '88 named the West Garage parking facility (W45) as the most favorable location for the construction of a new undergraduate dormitory, according to an MIT News press release yesterday.

The dormitory will increase the ount of on-campus housing options available to undergraduates, and serve as relief to the student population living on campus as renovations are carried out in other dormitories.

The residence hall is scheduled to open in the fall of 2020, pending approval from the City of Cambridge. The selection process was guided by the New Residences Working Group, a student-faculty collaborative board created by the Division of Student Life and the Office of Campus Planning.

The administrative portion of the group comprises staff members from the two offices, as well as Kim Haberlin, senior commu-

nications officer for the chancellor, and Matthew Bauer, director of communications for DSL. Eight students sit on the board, including DormCon President Kate Farris '17, Allan Sadun '17, and a delegation of New House representatives.

The group, charged with advising the design for the new dorm, had its final pre-design workshop meeting Jan. 24. Meetings were by architectural firm Perkins & Will, whose pre-design concepts included the Vassar St. location, four different outlines for the structure of the dorm, and recommendations for the internal layout of rooms.

According to Farris in an email to the student body last October, the group was to "consider the big picture of a new building and provide thoughtful solutions to the architects." It based its work on a set of guidelines created by the Architectural Principles group describing the ideal structure and layout of an MIT residence hall.

New Dorm, Page 3

The Tech's YEAR IN REVIEW, see insert at p. 6

IN SHORT

Classes are cancelled today, Feb. 9. Happy snow day!

Information Systems and Technology (IS&T) has moved its walkin service center to the Atlas Service Center, on the first floor of E17. IS&T holding an open house and a raffle to celebrate Feb. 8.

Applications for grants from the Council for the Arts at MIT for arts projects by students, faculty and staff are due Feb. 10.

If you're reading this in print on Thursday, it means that MIT has remained open while nearly all other universities in the Boston/ Cambridge area have closed due to the snow.

Send news and tips to news@tech. mit.edu.

What's the future of MIT education?

Chancellor and UA Education host forum to seek student input

By Drew Bent

Around 50 undergraduate students gathered Wednesday evening to brainstorm the future of MIT's education at an event hosted by the UA Committee on Education with Chancellor Cynthia Barnhart PhD

Barnhart has spent the past few weeks meeting with small groups of faculty and students to seek feedback on the priorities for the Office of the Chancellor over the next five years. In an email on Tuesday, Barnhart floated the idea of developing a new position in her office. the Vice Chancellor for Education. She is currently seeking recommendations for faculty member candi-

as to discuss the purpose of a university education and the bold experiments that MIT could run over the next five years. Barnhart said she realized MIT might not be so great at enacting change, but that her office was trying its best.

Students shared a wide variety of ideas for how to improve MIT, such as using the Socratic method in lectures, ensuring students engage with the local Cambridge community, and transforming the current culture of stress into one of intrinsic motivation. One group of students even introduced the possibility of giving everyone in some classes the same final grade.

Students said they enjoyed

MIT's current culture of collabo-The focus of Wednesday's forum ration, emphasis on student governance, and diversity in the student body. They also discussed the purpose of obtaining a university education, for which many reasons were given. Some focused on career development and critical thinking skills, while others emphasized personal growth and areas such as social justice.

> After the discussions, Barnhart said that many of the students' comments were similar to what she has been hearing from faculty.

> Barnhart will be hosting another forum for graduate students Feb. 15. She also said at the forum that students who have more ideas should sign up online for her office

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Highlighting the need for communication in a time of distrust. NEWS,

PLANNER PETITIONS FOR AID

The creator of an MIT course-planning tool asks for administrative support.

NEWS, p. 2

THE CYNICAL JOURNALIST

We aspire not to be like her. ARTS, p. 10



HACK, PUNT, TOOL

A musical by MIT, for MIT. **ARTS**, p. 11

E-EXCERCISE

League of Legends, the IM sport you've been waiting for. SPORTS, p. 12

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Letter from the Editor

By Vivian Zhong EDITOR IN CHIEF

Dear readers,

To begin, I would like to thank you for helping us carry out a mission that was laid out so long ago: to serve the MIT community. Whatever your role is at MIT, you have helped us — by reading, by informing, by writing, by criticizing, and by simply being a part of this diverse ecosystem. We hope we can continue to earn your trust as we diligently share the facts, experiences, and opinions that affect each and every one of us.

It has been a trying year for the nation as well as for MIT. I don't expect the next year to be any easier. If there's anything we can learn from the past year, it's the importance of communication between students and administration, liberals and conservatives, Star Wars fans and Trekkies. I strongly believe that everyone only wants the best for MIT, even if they have different ideas for what that may be, and I also believe that The Tech is well-situated to help bridge those

We work toward this goal through every branch of The Tech: news, by providing facts and context; opinion, by offering windows into different points of view; campus life, by sharing stories of TFP; photo, by capturing pictures worth a thousand words; and arts and sports, by exploring the many exploits of our talented community.

Times have changed, and The Tech has changed: our staff, for example, comprises far more women and partakes far fewer fermented beverages than when The Tech was conceived in 1881. I think we can change still more, and I invite everyone who's ever had an opinion on something we've done to join us for dinner at 6 p.m. on the first Sunday of each month, and provide feedback on our coverage and our techniques.

What can you expect from us this year? I share with you the following list of our goals. You can consider them Lunar New Year's resolutions, and I hope they'll prove more readily preserved than their Gregorian counterparts. As an organization, The Tech will:

- Better utilize our unique position in the middle of one the most vibrant innovative communities in the world, by, for example, interviewing more MIT professors, researchers, and students engaged in fields related to pressing world topics;
- Write more editorials and communicate the thoughts that inform our news
- Engage in more outreach to members of the MIT community who would like to

 Better support the MIT arts, music, and sports communities by providing more coverage of the long-term work that goes into preparing for performances and competitions and by better informing readers of events before they occur.

We live in a time when both reliance on and distrust of media runs high, when opinions diverge, and when words printed in pixels can reach the other side of the earth in an instant. It's understandable that some may be reluctant to come forward and publicly share what they know and think. But it is especially in this time that open communication becomes indisposable, so that rumors do not cause undue panic or antagonism. For our part, The Tech seeks to understand, not to intrude; to inform, not to impose; to analyze, not to dictate.

The "world moves, and it moves both very swift and very slow," to borrow from the sentiments of my favorite immortal, goldenhaired Elf of Middle-earth. We remain committed to keeping you up to date with rapid developments and how they affect you, as well as keeping track of promises made and long-term projects undertaken.

And finally, welcome to Volume 137. We are, as always, at your service.

— Vivian Zhong '19

Planner founder initiates petition to obtain administrative support for site

Unexpected updates to MIT system can cause loss of functionality

By Anshula Gandhi and Patrick Wahl

A petition appeared Feb. 3 on Planner, a volunteer-run MIT class scheduling website, urging the MIT administration to better support the service.

The petition, which now has about 1,000 signatures, claims that "Planner has been developed and run almost entirely by a single developer ... without any real infrastructure support from MIT," and that it "is in danger of falling into obsolescence and shutting down since the single alumnus cannot continue to solely guarantee Planner's continued maintenance and development."

Adin Schmahmann '13, the creator and maintainer of Planner, responded to a thread about his petition on the ec-discuss mailing list clarifying the nature and purpose of his request. "I think Planner could definitely use some work, as do many of my users," Schmahmann wrote.

In the body of the petition, Schmah-

mann claimed that Planner "is used by a significant portion of the community." In his email he shared his belief that "if a project has shown to be of sufficient value to the MIT community then MIT resources ... should be dedicated to the project."

Because it is unaffiliated with MIT, Planner must deal with unexpected changes to the MIT technical infrastructure which often render it unusable.

Schmahmann told The Tech in a phone interview last night that an update to the way the MIT system handles certificates "killed" Planner early yesterday morning, and he had to take time off from work to fix it. "If I'm busy ... it means that [students who use Planner are] up the creek," Schmahmann said.

Schmahmann reached out to various MIT departments, including IS&T and the Office of the Registrar, for help with his site, but was often redirected or ignored, leading him to create the petition.

While his goal is mainly to obtain money from MIT with which he will pay students to maintain the site, Schmahmann noted that simple notifications from MIT regarding the state of the its technology would be helpful as well, and could prevent site failures like the one yesterday morning.

He said that dedicated student workers could significantly overhaul the architecture of Planner, giving it new features and making it more useful to students. "I haven't made any meaningful changes to the codebase in years ... I just haven't had time." He believes paid workers will ensure that Planner offers high quality service to its users.

Schmahmann referenced Picker and CourseRoad as two other successful student-run projects addressing course organization. Both have received help from MIT in the form of UROP funding, but do not receive official Institute support. Picker has been maintained by student UROPs, while CourseRoad was significantly expanded with UROP funding and is now run by SIPB.

SIPB offered no comment on the petition. The Tech has reached out to IS&T for

Drew Houston, CEO of Dropbox and MIT alum, talks entrepreneurship

'Advice is equal to limited life experience and over-generalization'

By Rose Wang

MIT alumnus Drew Houston '05, the CEO of Dropbox, returned to campus Friday, Feb. 4 to give a talk about his life leading up to his current role as the head of the company he founded.

The idea for Dropbox grew out of Houston's personal frustration with thrumbdrives. He was unable to find tools which would allow him to keep files with him on the go, or transfer files between computers without emailing them to himself. Houston graduated in 2005 from MIT with a B.S. in Computer Science, taking a year to work on his online SAT prep company Accolade before changing direction and creating the file hosting service we know today as Dropbox.

"Everything started when I was sitting in a Chinatown bus from Boston to New York,"

drive again and had nothing to do. Remem- of employees in the company, you need coher, this was back in the day when the Chinatown bus had no WiFi, so when I say I had nothing to do, I really had nothing to do."

That's when he opened up an editor and started to write some code.

According to Houston, he has his given up his coding duties in order to focus on his other responsibilities as the CEO of Dropbox. Over the past ten years, he has fostered an amiable culture within his company—one derived from MIT's culture. "The company first started off with Course 6 undergrads and that's how we built up this ethos around engineering quality within the company," he said. "The work ethic you develop here [at MIT] is really unlike at most places."

The challenges he faces in his career today concern scaling up: "You need to be good or better at what you're doing today, while deal-

Houston said. "I had forgotten my thumb- ing with other new stuff. ... With thousands ordination—and it can become total chaos Ultimately all the vectors need to point in the same direction."

> When asked about his thoughts on "getting more experience before starting a company," Houston replied that the notion is empirically wrong. "There's this saying that advice is equal to limited life experience and over-generalization."

> He emphasized that there is no perfect path through life. "Sure, when you're trying to get into college it's kind of like checking off every box. But real life doesn't work that

> "What's important is that you're a good engineer. It's not valuable to drop out because you don't get to learn the technical stuff on the job. I draw a lot from my engineering education I got here at MIT," Houston said.

DID YOUR MIT ESSAYS GET YOU IN?

The Tech is collecting successful application essays (**hint:** yours!). Email your pieces to cl@tech.mit.edu! Thursday, February 9, 2017

The Tech 3

WEATHER

An active winter weather pattern

By Costa Christopoulos

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Today, parts of Massachusetts will likely pick up over one foot of snow as a low pressure system passes to our southeast. Accordingly, the National Weather Service has issued a Winter Storm Warning for the area until later this evening. For Boston, snowfall should increase through the morning, with the brunt of the snow occurring in the late morning and early afternoon. Most weather models have

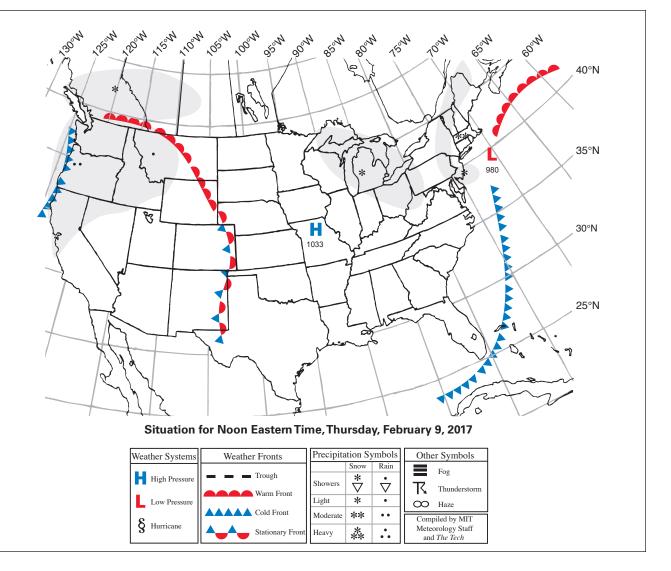
accumulated snow totals of 9-13 inches in Boston by early evening, after which snowfall begins to taper off.

Snow cover, combined with colder and drier air behind the departing low, will set the stage for single digit temperatures tomorrow morning. After today's system, Boston has a chance for lighter snowfall early Saturday morning in the form of snow showers. A third system approaches New England on Sunday, bringing another opportunity for rain and snow.

Extended Forecast

Today: Snow. High 29°F (-2°C).
Tonight: Mostly Cloudy. Low 9°F (-13°C).
Tomorrow: Partly Cloudy. High 22°F (-6°C).
Saturday: Snow showers in the morning. High 32°F (0°C).

Sunday: Chance rain/snow. High 39°F (4°C).



Admin will select architect firm to direct dorm design strategy

New Dorm, from Page 1

The next step, according to Sadun, is for "senior MIT leadership [to] decide on an architecture firm to direct the design process." He warned students that none of the concepts were final, and may be subject to cuts and changes

due to budget constraints.

The Department of Facilities is looking into methods of replacing the parking that would be lost with the demolition of the current W45. The dormitory and parking changes come as part of the West Campus Study, a MIT Capital Project.





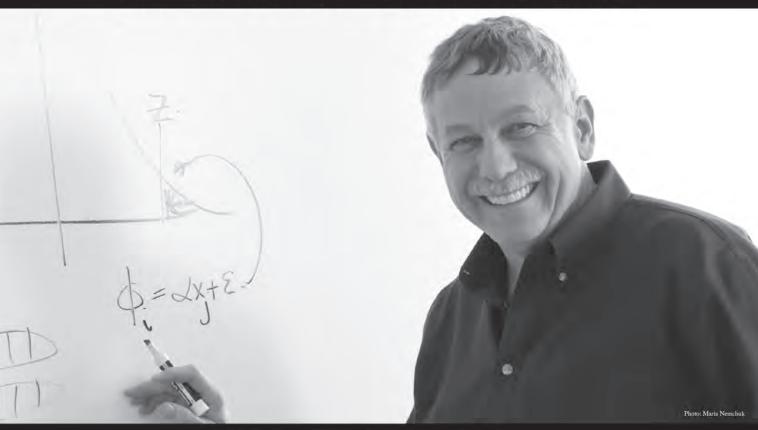
4 THE TECH



The MIT Laptop Orchestra made its debut last Saturday, Feb. 4, at Killian Hall.

James R. Killian, Jr., Faculty Achievement Award Lecture

SECRETS of the HUMAN GENOME



Eric Lander

Professor, Department of Biology President and Founding Director, Broad Institute of Harvard and MIT

Tuesday, February 14, 2017 4 pm Huntington Hall, 10-250



Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Are you a tetris ninja?

Use your powers for good!

...by joining the production department at The Tech!

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Solution to Nothing Special

from page 8

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Solution to Snow Day

from page 8

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3	1	2	6	5	4

Solution to No School

from page

8	5	2	3	6	7	4	9	1
1	7	3	8	4	9	5	6	2
6	9	4	1	5	2	3	7	8
7	3	6	2	8	5	1	4	9
4	2	8	9	1	6	7	5	3
5	1	9	7	3	4	2	8	6
9	8	7	5	2	3	6	1	4
3	6	1	4	7	8	9	2	5
2	4	5	6	9	1	8	3	7

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2017

Advancing Wellbeing seminar series

February 9, 2017 MIT Media Lab, E14-633 4:00pm



Susan Murphy

H.E. Robbins Professor of Statistics, Professor of Psychiatry University of Michigan

Micro-randomized Trials and Moderated Effects of Mobile Health Intervention Pushes on Behavior

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Thursday, February 9, 2017

The Tech 7





Patriots Victory Parade

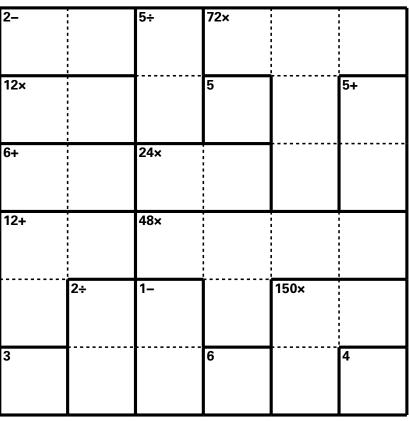






Snow Day

Solution, page 4



Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1-6. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

No School

Solution, page 4

				6			9	
	7			4			6	2
	9				2			8
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		8	9		6	7		
5		9	7				8	
5 9 3			5				1	
3	6			7			2	
	4			9				

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.



[1795] All You Can Eat



MY HOBBY: GOING OUT AT NIGHT AND ADDING "ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT" TO EVERY STORE'S SIGN

After my absent-mindedness resulted in a bad posterboard-related stomachache, I learned to do the sign-making place last.

Nothing Special by Charles Slack

Solution, page 4

ACROSS

- 1 Natural balm
- 5 60 Minutes network
- 8 Tennis great Becker
- 13 Checkers move
- 14 Yahoo! competitor 15 Capital not far from Key
- 16 Separately, on a menu
- 18 Tickled pink 19 Nothing special
- 21 Location
- 22 Sound of a happy feline
- 23 Prescription writers: Abbr. 26 Splashed through a puddle
- 29 The Barber of Seville, e.g.
- 31 At any time
- 35 Keep from entering
- 36 Antivirus software brand
- 37 With 39 Across, nothing special
- 39 See 37 Across
- 40 Pass unnoticed
- 41 Figure out
- 42 Officeholders, for short
- 43 Sedans and coupes

- 44 Small liquor container
- 46 "That's right"
- 47 Gumbo veggie
- 49 Yale students 53 Nothing special
- 57 Soldier's lodging
- 60 Early American style
- 61 Take flight 62 Right-angle shape
- 63 Entry through a fence
- 64 Cry of disbelief
- 65 Pigs' digs
- 66 Poems of praise

DOWN

- 1 Open slightly
- 2 Humdingers 3 Saudi neighbor
- 4 Florida Disney attraction
- 5 Shopper's vehicle 6 Those two
- 7 Unexpected success
- 8 Dance venue
- 10 Double-crosser
- 9 Squashed circle
- 11 Suffix for serpent

- 12 Gloomy
- 15 Next for the throne
- 17 Not many
- 20 Wet dirt
- 23 "Ditto"
- 24 Oddly amusing 25 Stuff in hourglasses
- 27 With skill 28 Little League coach, often
- 30 Make ready, for short
- 31 Short literary piece
- 32 Hold in esteem 33 Gives forth
- 34 Bank takeback, for
- short 36 D.C. team, in headlines
- 38 Outdated
- 39 Briny body
- 41 Quick looks
- 44 End of many work wks.
- 45 Casino game
- 48 Oscar actress Winslet
- 50 Specialized slang
- 51 Homeric epic
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- 57 "Kapow!"
 - 58 Climbing plant 59 Tell a whopper

56 Pub servings

THE TECH 9 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2017

We get you the tickets. You get us the review.

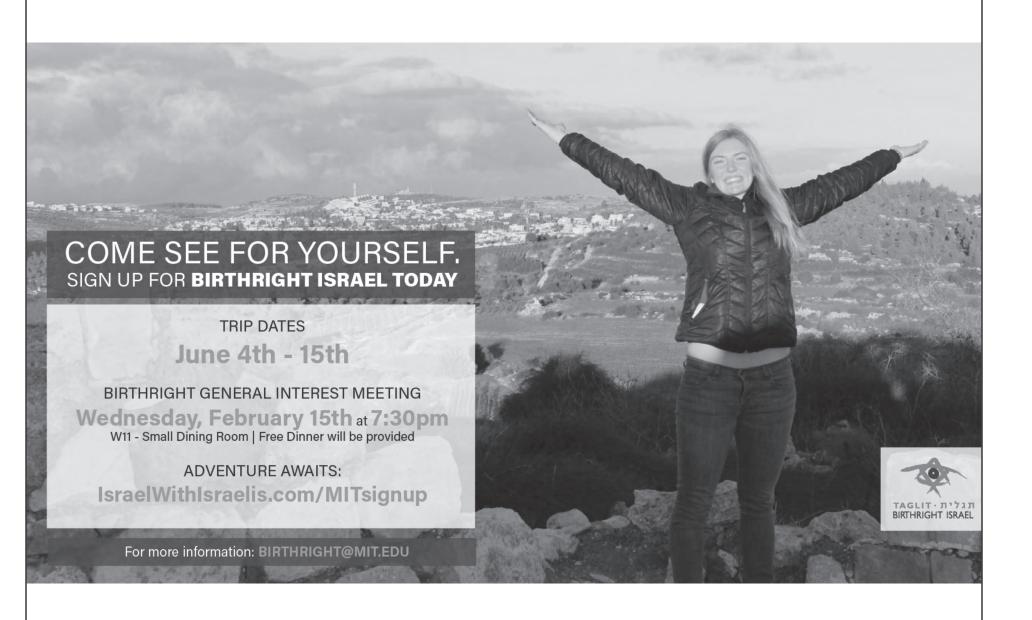


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MOVIE REVIEW

The space between this film and perfection is quite vast

The Space Between Us attempts a sci-fi romance

The Space Between

Directed by Peter Chelsom

Starring Gary Oldman, Asa Butterfield, Britt Robertson, Carla Gugino

Rated PG-13

Now Playing

By Ivy Li

Watching *The Space Between Us* is akin to the sitting through an unintelligible lecture. Not quite sure where the logical jumps were, you merely nod and move on, understanding that it would take some work to decipher the mess of notes you scrawled.

Our protagonist Gardner Elliot (Asa Butterfield) is a boy born on Mars as a consequence of a failed NASA mission project to colonize the planet. His mother, Sarah Elliot (Janet Montgomery), led the mission team 16 years ago, only to die giving birth to Gardner. The project manager Nathaniel Shepherd (Gary Oldman) abandons the project and the boy on Mars, only for his decision to haunt him 16 years later, when teenage Gardner is intelligent enough to communicate with Earth and falls in love with an orphaned girl Tulsa. He arrives on Earth, and with Tulsa's help, they escape--Gardner from NASA facilities, Tulsa from her adoptive father's house-in search of Gardner's father.

What sounds like a solid premise on paper translates into a convoluted mess of a film. Even the opening scenes with Sarah El-



STX ENTERTAINMEN

Britt Robertson and Asa Butterfield in The Space Between Us.

liot and her mission raise serious questions regarding this NASA's logic (or lack thereof). Granted, if Shepherd hadn't sent a pregnant mother into space only to die during child-birth, there would be no premise for a film. But the task of a film with a far-fetched premise is to explain the inconsistencies. This one never does.

Even then, a film can get away with convoluted plot holes through thematic exploration; here again,the film falls short. The audience is left wondering what they were supposed to take away. Was it Tulsa's distaste of phoniness à la Holden Caulfield? Or was it Gardner's appreciation of Earth and of being alive to appreciate it? Or perhaps it is Nathaniel's atonement for his mistakes? Or could it be Sarah Elliot's courage, a theme repeated multiple times? I couldn't tell you because these themes never go beyond their clichéd bases, ideas that other films have explored with greater depth and originality.

Butterfield's Gardner remains likeable as the naive Earth visitor and Tulsa's love interest, but there is only so much an actor can do with cheesy, unoriginal lines and an inadequate script.Opposite of Butterfield's Gardner is Robertson's Tulsa, who is quite a character. Robertson manages to pull off believably being compassionate and enthusiastic while still being cynical. Tulsa is not above stealing and breaking laws to help the two escape and find Gardner's father. It's not saying much when I'd argue that Tulsa and Gardner are the highlights of the film. Their character development is predictable and their romance is heavily rushed, but a few scenes of Hollywood feel-good moments have some payoff in the midst of an otherwise unwatchable film. Honorable mention goes to Tulsa's stolen car and her ability to fly a plane.

I've come to expect a certain standard of performances from Butterfield. Albeit type-casted, he has exhibited his versatile talent, from the magical realism of Hugo to the historical drama of The Boy in the Striped Pajamas and even the sci-fi adaptation of Ender's Game. Gardner's genuine awe of Earth's natural beauty is quite charming--he dances under the falling rain, he stares longingly at the vast blue sky and oceans, he holds his hands excitedly near a fire for the first time. He even asks everyone he meets, "What's your favorite thing about Earth?" Gardner's love for Earth's natural beauty is most apparent when Tulsa and Gardner arrive in Los Angeles: the only thing that Gardner could say was that the flashy streets and skyscrapers at night didn't feel real. Despite being critical about the film, even I grew appreciative of the Earth we take for granted due to Gardner's outlook.

Sometimes, you need a film with enough cheese, careless writing, and improbability to get you through the day. This could be what you are looking for. Otherwise, I'd give it a pass.

THEATER REVIEW

Meet Augustine Early, your resident journalist sleazebag

Ronan Noone brings back his satirical play The Atheist

The Atheist

Performed by the Boston Playwright's Theatre

Written and directed by Ronan Noone

Starring Georgia Lyman

Jan. 19, 2017 to Feb. 5, 2017

By Ivy Li STAFF WRITER

The Atheist's Augustine Early (Georgia Lyman) is not a pleasant character. She is a journalist with dubious morals, and her strong opinions are rarely politically correct. Her work ethic is shoddy at best. Perhaps her only redeeming quality is a commitment to telling the truth. Even then, she does so only when it benefits her.

Although Augustine is the only character in this piece, Lyman's spectacular performance blows away any doubts that another character is needed. As scriptwriter Ronan Noone noted in the Q&A session following the performance, Augustine was originally written as a male character, but his decision to cast Lyman did not change the script and Augustine's inherent characterization remains the same.

Augustine monologues about her failed romances and the sudden breakthrough in her career that changed her life. Augustine becomes famous for exposing a scandal involving the mayor, albeit through somewhat unethical means. Meanwhile, Augustine's newfound girlfriend Jenny brings more trouble than she expects, and the two subplots intertwine.

Despite the title, Noone's play is less about the battle between science and religion and more about Augustine's internal conflict with morality. She cynically drawls and lashes out at the people in her life, teetering between impulsively falling in love with some of them and outright destroying the lives of others. In the opening of the second act, Augustine discusses God and lashes out once again, but like the dying bird that Augustine finds later in the play, she seems to be more of a desperate child who can't find her way out.

Lyman's Augustine manages to be remarkably unlikeable yet extremely compelling. Her witticism, "Who needs sources when it's true?" and repeated declaration of "color, flavor, and spice" can be amusing while still subtly satirizing the often skewed field of journalism. We empathize with Augustine not because she has a hidden heart of gold, but because of the few times when her brazen opinions could have been our opinions and her choices could have been our choices too--from Augustine's burst of anger when she witnesses her girlfriend's infidelity to Augustine's decision to see her mother again after the former is vilified in the media.

After the play in the Q&A session, Noone and Lyman discussed the making of the play. Noone explained that the color palette of the set design--black, white, grey, red--was conscious of newspaper colors. Black walls with words written in white chalk. A table covered with red tablecloth and alcohol. The cigarette



KALMAN ZABARSK

Georgia Lyman in the Boston Playwright's Theatre's *The Atheist*.

that Augustine pulls out only to never light it. But perhaps the most noticeable prop is the video camera that projects Augustine onto a screen behind her as if she was in an infinite mirror. She is egotistical, yet behind the brazen facade, Augustine might have lost herself in the distorted media, reflecting across multiple mirrors yet never quite being the same each time.

Noone and Lyman further discussed the social warning that the play presents against the media. Lyman noted how pervasive the media is in our lives and that the media we consume can literally become who we are. An audience member commented that after Augustine had dismissed God, perhaps Augustine became God herself in the eyes of the public. It's an interesting and ironic take on the titular theme.

The play is a snide reminder about integ-

rity and moral responsibility to journalists who possess the power to control the flow of information. The media's relation to the public has not changed in the past decades. Lyman's decision for Augustine to exit the stage without a bow is a nice thematic addition to her already complicated character and her unhailed journey of speaking the truth.

Perhaps most suitably, *The Atheist* begins and ends with the phrase "I want you to get mad." Before the performance, Augustine scrawls these words on the stage wall with chalk. After Lyman has left the stage, a clip of the famous scene from the film *Network* (1976) is projected, with the quote, "Well, I'm not gonna leave you alone. I want you to get *mad*!"

We might not be able to change the media. But we can get mad. And that counts for something.

Thursday, February 9, 2017



Grace Kuffner '20, as Story Jack, leads a team of hackers and tells her hacking story.

$LENNY\,MARTINEZ-THE\,TECH$

MUSICAL REVIEW

Wait, you mean it's not "Hack, Pun, Tool?"

MTG revives the MIT musical *Hack*, *Punt*, *Tool* with new cast

MIT Musical Theatre Guild presents *Hack, Punt, Tool*

Composed by Julie Henion '11

Lyrics by Daniel Levine '12

La Sala de Puerto Rico, W20

Playing February 3-4 & 9-11 at 8 PM, and February 5 at 2 PM

> By lvy Li STAFF WRITER

Listen to Story Jack (Grace Kuffner '20) as she welcomes you to "a wondrous place, a marvelous realm-the land of MIT!" In other words, listen to Story Jack tell the tale with the greatest, most elaborate inside joke of the world: MIT's hacker culture.

You could go anywhere in the world and find someone with a Brass Rat and said person will recognize the jokes, the references, the course numbers. MIT's culture seems to balance the hardcore with the hardk0re, the socially inept nerd with the street smart "criminal," the tooling and the punting. From MIT's support of the beloved modern art sculptures around campus to its commitment to technological research, it melds together into a unique arena. As many MIT students would attest, the Institute is a remarkably special place.

In Hack, Punt, Tool, MIT clichés abound as cheerful and naive freshman Billie Rogers (Phoebe Piercy '20) enters MIT, singing "I Want to Be Hardk0re." With her newfound freshmen friends Conner (Maura Hennessey '17) and Ryan (Dustin Doss '17), she joins the hacker team led by Corot (Kim Dauber '18) to see through a hack on the dome. Drama ensues as the police team led by Bruce E. Sprinkles (Jacob Miske '20) tries to catch these hackers and former hacker Kepler (David Favela '18) has some history with Corot. Meanwhile, a romance between Billie and Tess (Ellena Popova '17) develops only to be temporary trampled upon by the monster Novembat

and the ensemble of singers shouting "PARETE LEGI NOVEMBRI!"

With an original score and witty lyrics, the musical plays off stock characters with a lighthearted spin, never feeling boring or drawn out. The good fun of it is in the lyrics, with a plethora of references to modern art (and one particular work's consequential destruction by the musical Campus Police's blimp) and historic hacks ("Auroux! Auroux! Auroux!") when MIT was more hardcore. Its predictable storyline never hinders the musical but rather enhances it, as the words both satirize MIT's idiosyncrasies while never forgetting to celebrate

You just have to smile a bit when watching these freshmen slowly learn MIT's vocabulary. You might even snicker every time Tess and Billie's romantic overtures are stopped by a thundering sky warning them of the Novembat. And you can't help but laugh when the donut-loving campus policemen break into a choreographed dance number or when the overly determined Sergeant Sprinkles leads them on a mission in their flying blimp.

What this musical captures so well is just how pervasive MIT culture is. Prospective students grow excited with the hacking, the psetting, and all that jazz. Froshlings and prefrosh are inducted into the culture through a more or less sink or swim approach, usually with those that swim working together. Juniors and seniors grow jaded with the work that they end up putting in. But most people survive with the help of their friends, as alum fondly recall. If teamwork and friendship had a soundtrack, this musical would be it. MIT culture has always left an indelible experience on its students and this musical does the same.

Humorous and clever, cheesy yet endearing, *Hack, Punt, Tool* is a labor of love from past MIT alumni. It might seem preachy and corny for non-MIT viewers, and its jokes and puns might not make sense to the rest of the world, but that's what an inside joke is, right? The "inside" part of the joke is what makes the references special. It's a testament to the longevity of the Institute's traditions that the musical still feels new despite having been written a few years ago with a different cast.

After all, "there's more to life than hacking. There's more to life than punting. There's more to life than tooling." So go watch this musical. It's hardk0re.

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New intramural sports added for and added for spring semester

Sports include cricket and League of Legends

By Ahaan Rungta SPORTS EDITOR

Over 2000 students in the MIT community combined for 297 rosters in intramural sports in the fall of 2016. The nine MIT IM sports available last fall were split up into multiple leagues and included badminton, dodgeball, flag football, tennis, soccer, and the most recent intramural addition, cricket.

Craig Mascarenhas, a graduate student in course 2 and a member of the MIT cricket club, initiated the concept of cricket as an intramural sport. It was offered for the

member Taranjit Singh. The cricket league run by Singh featured six teams consisting of 83 participants and was won by the team from Maseeh Hall. The positive reception of the first-ever cricket IM season provides motivation for the department of athletics and the cricket club for future iterations of

The Intramural Executive Board also chose Athletes of the Month, determined by peer vote. Graduate student David Bierman '17 (dodgeball) and undergraduate Kelly Hoffman '18 (soccer and dodgeball) were the October AOTM. Michael DeLaus '18 (dodgeball) received the honors for November.

A different set of IM sports were offered during MIT's Independent Activities Period. The spring semester will feature yet another different set of sports, including, potentially, League of Legends. If offered, the popular MOBA would be the first ever e-sport in the history of MIT intramural sports. Registration for the spring iteration of IM sports will take place on imleagues.com during the week of Feb. 13.

The information in this article was provided by Molly Dufour, the MIT Athletics Administrative Assis-



The Maseeh team poses as the first ever MIT IM cricket champions.







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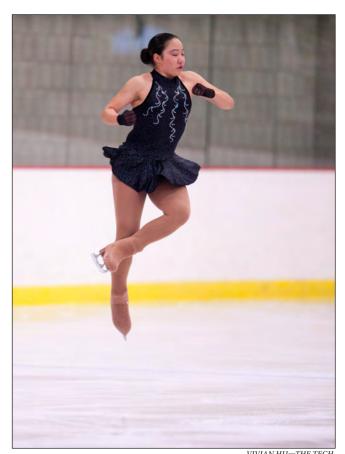
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Questions? Spi.mit.edu/contact



The MIT Intercollegiate Figure Skating Competition was held in Johnson Rink Feb. 4-5.



Flora Su G performs her free skate, placing second



Diane Zhou '19 skates to "Reflections of Passion."